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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria (French Zone)

SUBJECT French Interrogation of Austrian
Army Officers

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SUPPLEMENT

1. For some while the French have been inviting Austrian career army officers up to the Park Hotel, Igls, above Innsbruck and interrogating them concerning their war experiences with the Wehrmacht, etc. Some officers have been invited on repeated occasions. A certain secrecy is attached to these invitations, particularly by the French officers who do the interrogating.
2. It is not surprising that these invitations have given rise to all kinds of rumors locally, generally to the effect that the French are seeking to recruit Austrian officers for the coming war between east and west. A particularly persistent rumor at the moment is that the officers are asked their reactions to the possibility of fighting for the western powers against Russia; those who reply that they would gladly do so are then asked to attend secret conferences in the Park Hotel, Igls.
3. Source has been trying to investigate these rumors, and to date has found no officer who has received any concrete offer for his services from the French. The questions asked are described by the officers as typical general staff questions: technical, military, and geographical data, etc. All officers are apparently asked if they served on the eastern front. Interest is also shown by the French in the ideas of the officers for the new Austrian Army, and military information is being sought concerning Austria proper (strength of bridges, etc.)
4. The officers state that their interrogators obviously have "western" sympathies.

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